**Farmers' Assistance Centres in A.P.**

5137. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Farmers' Assistance Centres functioning in Andhra Pradesh, location-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to setup more such Centres in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, names of Districts/Mandals/Villages identified for this purpose;

(d) by when the new Farmers' Assistance Centres are likely to start functioning; and

(e) details of guidelines under which these Centres would function?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No Farmers' Assistance Centre is being run presently in Andhra Pradesh under any programme of this Ministry. However, one Agricultural Technology Information Centre (ATIC) is functioning at Acharya N. G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh. This has been sanctioned by the ICAR under National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP).

(b) No such proposal is under consideration by the ICAR under NATP during the current financial year.

(c) to (e) Questions do not arise.

**Import of garlic**

5138. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) when country is expected a bumper crop of garlic, as per the reports arriving from garlic producing States, if so, why Government are bent upon importing garlic this year; and

(b) whether it is a fact that Director General (foreign trade) has serious objections on the import of garlic which would badly hurt the interest of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The estimated production of garlic for the last 5 years is given below :

| Year | Production ('000MT) |
|---|---|
| 1998-1999 | 570.80 |
| 1999-2000 | 495.30 |
| 2000-2001 | 487.80 |
| 2001-2002 | 530.80 |
| 2002-2003 | 565.00 |

The import of garlic is under Open General Licence with effect from 17-01-2003. In order to safeguard the interests of the farmers, the import duty has been raised from 30% to 100%.

**Horticulture development**

5139. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of funds spent by Government for the development of horticulture during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the extent to which the target of the development of horticulture has been achieved, as a result thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated to the States particularly Gujarat and Maharashtra for the purpose during the current financial year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The details of funds released during the last three years under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture—Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plans, which includes programmes on horticulture development, is given in the Statement-I. (*See* below). The Scheme provides flexibility to the State Governments to take up programmes and fix targets as per their felt needs and requirement through the Work Plans, which are achievable. As a result of the interventions, the horticulture production has been increasing over the years.

(c) The State-wise details of tentative allocation of funds under the Macro Management Scheme during the current financial year is given in the Statement-II (*See* below). The funds allocated during 2003-04 to Gujarat and Maharashtra is Rs. 2300 lakhs and Rs. 8000 lakhs respectively.